"**Imitating Christ's Humility**"

**Philippians 2:1-8**

Living the Christian life for Christ can be extremely challenging at times. You must remain strong in the faith and let nothing move you. Always give yourselves completely to the work of the Lord, because you know your labor in the Lord, is not in vain. For it is God who works in you both to will and to work for his good pleasure. When difficult times arise, will you remain faithful? Not by the way of eye-service as people-pleasers, but as the servants of Christ, doing the will of God from the *heart*. So put on the whole armor of God that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil, and ***"You fight on!"***

**Philippians 2:1-4**

"Unity" is essential if Christians are to serve others. It is a matter of the heart. We must exhibit mutual love. We are indwelt by the same Spirit (**Gal. 5:22**). We must make *every effort* to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace:(**Eph. 4**)

Communication, Self-Denial, Inclusion, not Exclusion. Where there is no Unity, you will find Disunity, then Clicks may form which often leads to Division. We are one body with many members. The four "If's" in verse one can be translated "Since". As believers, we have an obligation to obey the directives of Christ and to *remain*faithful in our union with Him. Paul wants the Philippian church to be unified in their purpose, efforts, desires and motives. How? By living the Word. Having the spirit of "Oneness”. United we stand. Divided, we will fall. Keep Christ first. Humility of mind is evident when we have a genuine awareness and concern about the cares of others. The word "Also" in verse 4 is critical. Paul does not suggest that we ignore or devalue our own physical, emotional, and spiritual needs. He instructs that your personal needs should not be all-consuming. We should not get tunnel vision regarding our own things. Unity is achieved only by submitting ourselves individually to Christ.

**Philippians 2:5-8**

"The mind of Christ" is the supreme example of humility and selflessness. Paul exhorted believers to think like Christ: "***Let****this mind"* do not prevent or forbid, give permission, authorize. Christians should demonstrate the same attitude as Jesus. Before we responding to a situation, take a moment to consider, "What would Jesus do?"

Jesus Christ is the second person of the Godhead. Being in the form of God refers to Christ's status before He came to earth. He was fully God (**John 1:1, 14 KJV***In the beginning was the Word, and the word was with God, and the word was God, And the word was made flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth).*Christ did not consider His equality with God the Father in heaven as something to which He should cling to: (v7) "thought it not Robbery" refers to something held by force. Christ *willingly* made "himself of no reputation": "He emptied Himself" while remaining equal with God in nature, Christ chose to take on the visible, physical form of a servant by becoming human.

He was made in the *likeness* of men: Jesus housed Himself in human flesh, but He did not take on qualities of any human being. Jesus was without sin. He *did not* and cannot, cease to be God. (**Malachi 3:6a KJV "***For I am the Lord, I change not*").

And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. His humility was *not* a sign of weakness, but an expression of willpower since He could have stopped the process at any point.(**Matthew 26:53** NIV *Do you think I cannot call on my Father, and he will at once put at my disposal more than twelve legions of angels?)*His death was an expression of obedience. He *allowed* himself to be killed in the most painful and humiliating way imaginable at the time. ***Is your all on the altar of sacrifice laid? Your heart does the Spirit control? You can only be blest, and have peace and sweet rest, As you yield him your body and soul.***